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Community Relations Plan

for

Baldwin Waste Oil Superfund Site

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at

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710 East Main Street
Robstown, Texas**

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Austin, Texas**

May 2004

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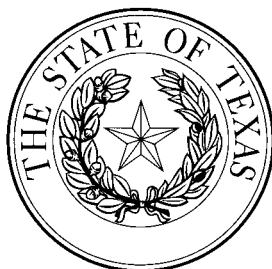


Baldwin Waste Oil State Superfund Site

Community Relations Plan May 2004

On the Web:

www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/superfund/baldwin.html



TEXAS COMMISSION on ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

Community Relations Plan

for

BALDWIN WASTE OIL STATE SUPERFUND SITE

Robstown, Nueces County, Texas

REMEDIATION DIVISION
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MC-225
Austin, Texas
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COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN
FOR
BALDWIN WASTE OIL
STATE SUPERFUND SITE
ROBSTOWN, NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS

May 2004

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Appendices

Texas Register notice regarding proposal of the Baldwin Waste Oil site to the state Superfund registry and announcing a public meeting to receive citizen comments to be held at the Nueces County Memorial Agricultural Center in Robstown, Texas, on November 12, 1987. Published October 16, 1987.

Texas Register notice listing the site on the state Superfund registry. Published January 22, 1988.

Texas Register notice announcing public meeting of May 25, 1999, at the Nueces County Auditorium in Robstown, Texas, to present to the community proposed cleanup remedies and to receive public comment on the recommended remedy. Published April 23, 1999.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN

for

Baldwin Waste Oil State Superfund Site

Robstown, Nueces County, Texas

May 2004

Overview of Community Relations Plan

This community relations plan (CRP) identifies issues of community concern regarding the Baldwin Waste Oil (BWO) state Superfund site, in Robstown, Nueces County, Texas. It also outlines the anticipated community relations activities to be conducted at the BWO site.

This CRP has been prepared to aid the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in developing a community relations program tailored to the needs of the communities affected by the site. TCEQ will conduct community relations activities to ensure that the local public has input into decisions and access to information about Superfund activities at the BWO site.

This plan is based primarily from the TCEQ hazard ranking system package prepared for the site, the remedial investigation, the Baseline Risk Evaluation Report, the Proposed Remedial Action Document, and the Operation and Maintenance Sampling and Analysis Plan.

[Note: The agencies referred to throughout this document - the Texas Water Quality Board (TWQB), the Texas Department of Water Resources (TDWR), the Texas Water Commission (TWC), the Texas Air Control Board (TACB), and the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission (TNRCC) - are now known as the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The new agency name became effective September 1, 2002, under State House Bill 2912 of the 77th Regular Legislative Session.]

Site Profile

Site Location and Description

Site Location: 27°50'28"N, 97°39'34"W

The BWO site is located on the south side of County Road 44, approximately 1 mile north of State Highway 44 and about 1,000 feet west of Farm-to-Market Road 1889, near Robstown, Nueces County, Texas. Robstown is about 1.5 miles south of the site and the Nueces River is about 4 miles north of the site. The site is an abandoned waste oil processing facility, which occupies slightly more than 1.8 acres, with a frontage of about 196 feet in length along the county road. The site is surrounded by agricultural land with an unmanned General Telephone facility to the east of the site.

Site Background and History

The site was formerly owned and resided on by Mr. Rudolph Studer, who is now deceased. In January 1978, Mr. Elton Baldwin leased the property from Mr. Rudolph Studer and constructed a waste oil processing facility, known as Baldwin Waste Oil Company. This facility was in operation from 1978 to 1984.

The BWO Company received a portion of its waste oil from the Brownsville Navigation District (BND) ballast pits. The BND ballast pits were used to store waste oil collected from ocean-going vessels from several nations. The waste oil was initially stored on site in one of several large storage tanks to allow heavy materials to settle. The oil was then pumped into one of several mixing tanks where it was blended with solvents (benzene, toluene or xylene) or oil- absorptive chemicals with or without the addition of heat. Wastewater generated during the blending process was stored in on-site tanks and subsequently transported to the BND pits for disposal. The processed oil was stored in on-site tanks until its sale and transfer to oil brokers.

In 1984, Mr. Baldwin leased the property to HBO Gathering Company which operated the facility from 1984 until their lease expired in 1986. HBO Gathering Company processed approximately 1,400 barrels of oil that had been left at the site by the BWO Company, and sold the material to a refinery near Ingleside, Texas. A drop in crude oil prices eventually made the HBO operation uneconomical.

Chronological History of Site

<u>Date</u>	<u>Activity</u>
Nov. 22, 1983	The Texas Department of Health (TDH) carried out a Hazardous Waste Canvassing investigation of the site, and determined that the site was not under its jurisdiction.
Jan. 30, 1984	TDH referred the site to TDWR.
April 17, 1986	TDWR District Office conducted an inspection on the site.
May 22, 1986	TDWR inspection report stated that evidence indicated the site had been abandoned.
Nov. 12, 1986	HBO Gathering Company leased and was operating the site.
Nov. 14, 1986	TDWR District Office staff inspected site and noted that someone was using the site for waste storage.
Dec. 5, 1986	Site referred to the State Superfund Section.
June 4, 1987	State Superfund staff inspected the site and collected samples; results of this investigation can be found in a Jones Neuse, Inc. report dated August 1987.
Oct. 9, 1987	TDWR District Office staff inspected the site and noted site was being used by unknown persons.
Oct. 16, 1987	Legal notice was published in the <i>Texas Register</i> (12TexReg 3858-3859) proposing the site to the state Superfund registry and announcing that a public meeting to receive comments would be held at the Nueces County Memorial Agricultural Center in Robstown, Texas, on November 12, 1987.
Nov. 12, 1987	Public meeting held in Robstown to receive comments on proposed listing of site to the state Superfund registry.
Jan. 22, 1988	Publication of <i>Texas Register</i> notice in which BWO site was included on the state Superfund registry.

Oct. 1988	<p>Several site investigations were performed at the BWO Company. These site investigations primarily concentrated on sampling liquid materials present within site tanks, drums, containers, and surface soils. The TDWR identified benzene, ethylbenzene, and xylenes within some containers. Analyses of soil samples indicated elevated lead, chromium, barium and arsenic concentrations.</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Technical Assistance Team monitored off-site migration of volatile organic compounds in the air. The results of air monitoring indicated that volatile organic compound migration from the site through the air was not extensive during the sampling period. Geraghty and Miller, Inc. performed sampling and volume estimates of oil, water and sludge present on-site. Their investigation indicated that the bulk of the site wastes was oils and contained high concentrations of benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylenes (BTEX) and barium. Elevated concentrations of styrene, carbon disulfide, vinyl chloride and arcolein were also detected. Lead concentrations were lower than those commonly seen in some waste oils.</p>
Aug. 90-March 1991	At the request of the EPA site coordinator, the EPA Technical Assistance Team conducted additional site assessments. These assessments were conducted to determine imminent threats to public health and the environment and characterize the extent of contamination.
Dec. 1991	The EPA Technical Assistance Team prepared a pilot scale bio-remediation work plan for the site.
July 1992	The EPA, under their enforcement action, began emergency on-site removal and remediation activities. The wastes from the tanks and sludge were removed to an off-site incineration facility and the tanks were cut up and removed off site for scrap metal. A bioremediation cell was constructed in the former tank farm area and was operated and maintained by Suntide Environmental. This cell has since been removed and is no longer located on the property.
June 1995	TNRCC remedial investigation/feasibility study underway.
Feb. 1998	TNRCC's contractor conducted sampling to obtain additional subsurface soil data and groundwater data to evaluate the horizontal extent of contamination. This investigation included 12 direct push soil borings, installation of a down gradient monitor well, and collection and analysis of soil and groundwater samples.
Feb. 1999	Additional sampling was conducted by TNRCC's contractor to determine

	background levels and to further delineate the metal concentrations in the surface soils (0 to 0.5 feet and 0.5 to 2 feet) on and off the site.
March 3, 1999	TNRCC completed the Baseline Risk Evaluation Report.
April 20, 1999	Final Remedial Investigation Report completed. Using data collected during the Remedial Investigation, a Baseline Risk Evaluation Report was prepared and finalized. In accordance with state requirements, an "Exclusion Criteria" list was used to evaluate the site for the potential of the contamination at the site to pose an unacceptable risk to the ecological environment. The site did not have a potential to pose ecological risk and the assessment ended.
April 23, 1999	A notice was published in the <i>Texas Register</i> (24 TexReg 3245-3246) announcing a public meeting would be held May 25, 1999, at the Nueces County Auditorium in Robstown, Texas, to present to the community the cleanup remedies and to receive citizen comments on the proposed remedy.
May 25, 1999	A public meeting was held at the Nueces County Auditorium in Robstown to receive comments on the cleanup remedy proposal to monitor the groundwater twice yearly for three years and then once yearly to determine if natural attenuation was taking place.
June 8, 1999	Good faith offer request letters were sent to potentially responsible parties requesting to respond with an offer to fund the groundwater monitoring. Responses were due by August 16, 1999.
June 29, 1999	TNRCC responded to citizen comments from the May 25, 1999 public meeting.
Feb. 29, 2000	TNRCC issued an administrative order establishing the final responsibilities of the potentially responsible party to finish the cleanup. The order set cleanup levels, selected the remedy for cleanup, and established rules, responsibilities and enforcement options for remedial design/remedial action. Natural attenuation and monitoring of the groundwater are occurring at the site.
March 10, 2000	Effective date of a TNRCC administrative order. In the operation and maintenance phase, the groundwater was to be monitored by TNRCC for the effectiveness of natural attenuation.
July 3 -5, 2000	TNRCC approved the Operation and Maintenance Sampling and Analysis Plan and the Operation and Maintenance Quality Assurance Project Plan.
July 13, 2000	Monitoring was underway with the first round of groundwater sampling.

Aug. 29, 2000	TNRCC received a report on the results of the first year of natural attenuation of contaminants in the groundwater.
July 17, 2001	TNRCC sampled groundwater at the monitor wells to track the natural attenuation of contaminants in the groundwater.
Dec. 20, 2001	TNRCC sampled groundwater at the monitor wells to track the natural attenuation of contaminants in the groundwater.
April 15, 2002	TNRCC received results of sampling for the second year of natural attenuation of contaminants in the groundwater.
July 30, 2002	TNRCC sampled groundwater at the monitor wells to track the natural attenuation of contaminants in the groundwater.
Jan. 9-10, 2003	TCEQ sampled groundwater at the monitor wells to track the natural attenuation of contaminants. In addition, an oxygen-releasing compound was added to monitor well #9 to attempt to increase the rate of natural attenuation by increasing the amount of oxygen available in the groundwater.
May 29, 2003	Semiannual sampling of groundwater was completed by TCEQ.
Aug. 19, 2003	TCEQ approved the annual report for the operation and maintenance sampling results.
Jan. 30, 2004	TCEQ sampled groundwater at the monitor wells to track the natural attenuation of contaminants in the groundwater.
March 18, 2004	TCEQ approved groundwater monitoring report.

Community Profile

Population & Brief History of Robstown, Texas

Robstown is located at the intersection of U.S. Highway 77, the gateway to the Rio Grande Valley and Mexico, and State Highway 44. Robstown is more than 12 square miles in size and is home to more than 12,000 people. As the second most populated city in Nueces County, it remains a critical agricultural center for South Texas. The population for Nueces County in 2003 was estimated to be 313,645.

By the early 1900s, Robstown had become the junction between railroad lines and a major agricultural and transportation center. Agriculture has always played an important role in Robstown's local economy, particularly cotton and vegetable farming. In 1907, a Nebraska developer, George H. Paul, bought most of the Driscoll Ranch and sold it to settlers for agricultural development. Robstown was named for Robert Driscoll, Jr. In 1910 or 1911, the Old Brendle Gin became Robstown's first cotton processing facility, as the young city began a long tradition as an agricultural center for the Coastal Bend area. The Robstown Area Development Commission is a nonprofit corporation aimed at promoting economic development efforts in the Robstown area. The Commission was formed in 1995 as a consolidation of the Chamber of Commerce and the Robstown Economic Development Commission.

History of Community Involvement

The TWC conducted a public meeting in Robstown, Texas, on Thursday, November 12, 1987, at 1:30 p.m., at the Nueces County Memorial Agricultural Center, State Highway 44 & U.S. Highway 77 (Ave. J) to discuss the site and to receive information about the site proposed by the Commission's staff for inclusion on the state Superfund registry.

The TNRCC held a public meeting on Tuesday, May 25, 1999, at Nueces County Auditorium, 710 East Main Street, Robstown, to receive and consider public comments regarding the proposed selection of remedy for the site. The proposed remedy was to monitor the groundwater twice yearly for three years and then once yearly to see if natural attenuation was taking place. There were four residents and three TNRCC staff in attendance.

Specific Objectives of the Community Relations Program

- Maintain open and ongoing two-way communication between the TCEQ; city, county and state officials; and area residents.
- Continue to expand the mailing list and our communications to include additional agencies, organizations, and residents that are interested in the project.
- Provide a community relations contact from whom interested parties can receive information on site activities, project status, and study results.
- Provide citizens, involved agencies, elected officials, civic leaders, and the media with accurate, timely information about site related activities through fact sheets, press releases, and community meetings.
- Provide for and attend public meetings.
- Respond to telephone inquiries and written correspondence in a timely, accurate manner.
- Provide all information, especially technical findings, in language that is understandable to the general public and in a form useful to interested citizens and elected officials through the preparation of fact sheets and news releases when major findings are made available during project phases.
- Monitor community concerns and information requirements as the project progresses.
- Modify the CRP to address changes in community needs and to maintain accuracy during different project phases.

Community Relations Techniques & Tools

1. Project Status Briefings, for state, county and local officials - to periodically inform the state, county, and local officials of the project.
2. Project Status Briefings for community groups and concerned citizens (may include public meetings, if needed) - to periodically inform the community of significant project developments and findings; to respond to inquiries accordingly, and incorporate local concerns into the decision-making process as appropriate.
3. Public Consultation - to conduct informal meetings or workshops (as needed) with residents to provide an opportunity for affected residents to express any concerns and make inquiries to ensure effective two-way communication.
4. Program Document Repository - to maintain an easily accessible local repository through which the public may review project outputs.
5. Texas Commission on Environmental Quality State Superfund Internet web page - to provide timely, current information on state Superfund activities on the World Wide Web at the following web address:
www.tnrcc.state.tx.us/permitting/remed/superfund/baldwin.html
6. Community Relations Plan - to reflect changes in site activities or local concerns.

Elected Officials

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Texas House of Representatives
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The Honorable Jamie Capelo
Texas House of Representatives
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The Honorable Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa
Texas State Senate
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Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa
Texas State Senate
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McAllen, Texas 78504

County

The Honorable Terry Shamsie
Nueces County Judge
901 Leopard
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401

The Honorable Oscar Ortiz
Nueces County Commissioner
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Robstown, Texas 78380

City

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Mayor, City of Robstown
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Robstown, Texas 78380

The Honorable Ruben V. Garza
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The Honorable Arene Rodriguez
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Program Document Repositories

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